



**WCFC Meeting  
February 18, 2009  
NRB, Room 172  
1111 Washington ST SE  
Olympia, WA**

**Members present:** Joe Scorcio, Sarah Griffith, Jim Freed, Marilyn Hyde, Kelly Puntene, Sandy Salisbury, Steve Dubiel, Jeff Beckwith, David Nelson, Rich Baker, and Linda Vane

**Members absent:** Barbara Hollenbeck, Kathy Wolf, Jim Flott, Scott Thomas, Terry Flatley, Neil Burkhardt, and Barry Johnson

**Guests:** Ian Scott, Darrell Johnston, Commissioner Goldmark, Vicki Christiansen, Linden Mead, Galen Wright, Sallie Nash, Ben Settecase, Mark Kahley, Leonard Bauer, and Vicki Lee

**Action Items:**

- **Rich Baker and Jim Flott will help with the arrangements for the Spokane meeting.**
- **Council members will let Sarah know if they are going to attend an Arbor Day celebration in a Tree City.**
- **Linden will send out copies of TAC minutes to Council members.**
- **Sandy will send links to the executive summary to Council members.**
- **Sarah will send an orientation packet to Mark and David, with the articles and by laws.**
- **Sandy will pass on legislative tracking's to Committee members**
- **All Committees will report regularly on progress of Strategic Plan**
- **Jim Freed will draft letter and send it to Sarah, to be put in final form**

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

**Welcome and Introductions – Chair**

Joe welcomed everyone. Introductions were made; then Sarah went over the logistics.

**Agenda and November Minutes Review – Chair/All**

Joe went over the agenda for the day; he advised that the Commissioner would be showing up between 2:00 and 2:30 pm. for a quick visit. The Commissioner intends on meeting with the Council whenever his schedule permits; and will be at our annual meetings.

November minutes were reviewed. A motion was made to approve the minutes, Sandy moved to accept the minutes with no corrections, Jim seconded; minutes were approved.

**Council Business – Chair**

Officers were nominated at the November meeting for Chair, Joe, for Vice-Chair, Terry. It was asked if there were any other nominations. **Answer: No.** A motion was made to vote on the nominations, which was seconded. It was a unanimous. Joe will remain the Chair for another year, and Terry will be Vice-Chair.

Joe reaffirmed the next meeting date and location, which will be May 20, outside of Ellensburg at the Wild Horse Wind Farm. On August 19<sup>th</sup>, the meeting will be in Spokane, and November 18<sup>th</sup> in Kirkland.

1 **Update on DNR Program, Ag Forestry, and Arbor Day**

2 Darrell handed out copies of the current organizational chart for the Department and the new  
3 Commissioner; then pointed out the changes that have taken place. Some of the changes are temporary.  
4

5 Darrell advised that Joe Shramek, Acting Division Manager of Resource Protection, definitely intends to  
6 have a presence with the Committee; and Darrell will attend as many meetings as he can.  
7

8 Joe gave an update on the letters he sent out with the Council's approval on relaying our support and  
9 encouragement. The letter was very successfully received. He met with Commissioner Goldmark in  
10 January, which led to a second meeting, which Joe Shramek, Sarah and Darrell were able to attend. The  
11 Council's strategy was successful. We are in as good as position as we could be as a Council. Joe talked  
12 about the list of Boards, Councils, Commissions, etc., that are being eliminated, transferred, changed,  
13 merged in some fashion. We will continue in our role as an advisory council to the Commissioner.  
14

15 Sarah commented that the meeting they had gave them a chance to introduce the Urban Forestry Program  
16 in a little more detail. We also spent time talking about the Evergreen Communities Act (ECA) with the  
17 partnership task force, and the Technical Advisory Committee.  
18

19 Sarah talked about all the personnel changes. Stacey Ray has departed DNR and is the urban forester for  
20 the City of Olympia. Linden Mead has joined DNR as the Inventory Coordinator.  
21

22 FY 09 budget, Congress is going to take a pass and start working on the 2010 budget. They are expecting  
23 the 09 budget will remain or be similar to last year's budget. Will have more answers in May.  
24

25 Tree City USA (TCUSA) Program has continued to grow. Seventy communities from last year have re-  
26 certified (one did not); and we have four new communities this year: Centralia, Hoquiam, Oroville, and  
27 Renton. For TCUSA, you can go to the National Arbor Day website, for a list and maps.  
28

29 For Arbor Day this year, we have spoken with Aaron Tosa, the new Communications Director, and it  
30 looks like the Commissioner is interested in going out on Arbor Day most likely to Renton and Hoquiam.  
31 As far as the other 72 cities, this year we will have to skip over some, keep it low key. The Council  
32 members are encouraged to go to as many as you can in your area. If interested let Sarah know, and she  
33 will give you information on the contact people. There will be no Arbor Day Banquet this year; we will  
34 have one in 2010.  
35

36 Sarah discussed the legislative session; there are a number of bills that have urban forestry implications.  
37 She has already responded to five or six bill reviews his year.  
38

39 There was a discussion on possibly changing how often the Committee meets, traveling and what is cost  
40 effective. Also, should we consider having a conference call meeting?  
41

42 Sarah talked with Barbara at the federal level, and we are not anticipating any cuts this year. The big thing  
43 right now is the stimulus package. Urban Forestry was included, and right now we don't know to what  
44 level. We found out on a Friday afternoon, and proposals were due at the end of business day. So if we  
45 can get our information to the federal government tomorrow, they want a list of projects that can start  
46 seven days after funding.  
47

48 Linden Mead gave an update on the ECA, talked about the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).  
49 Originally going into the meeting she thought they would be focusing on "street trees", but looks like they  
50 are really interested in long range community planning, and accessing canopies. They discussed  
51 inventories and tools to use, which Linden shared with the Council. The criteria and implementation plan  
52 will be finalized by the end of June. After that depending on budget we will see what happens next.  
53 Linden promised to keep the Council updated on their progress. The next TAC Meeting will be on  
54 March 17, 2009, in Renton, Washington.  
55  
56

1 Joe gave an update on the Community, Trade, and Economic Development (CTED) side of the ECA. The  
2 Task Force convened in January, due to the budget cuts and announcements, they discussed what they  
3 would have done by the end of June when the funding runs out. They broke into two sub-committees,  
4 with a very aggressive schedule to complete what will be known as an “Interim Final Report”, by  
5 June 30.

6  
7 The sub-committees will be meeting on a weekly basis, one to work on the outline of the report, the other  
8 to work on model ordinances and plans. The Recognition Program is on hold. June 9<sup>th</sup> is the last meeting.  
9

10 Joe passed around a copy of “Planning the Urban Forest”, a technical report published by the American  
11 Planning Association (APA). It is available through the APA website.  
12

13 Ian explained the reusable Tree Tag Signs that were put up around the Capitol Campus for a week; and  
14 gave an update on the Press Release. Senator Jacobson referenced the tree tags. It was a simple outreach  
15 project that touched a number of folks. There are many opportunities where the signs can be used.  
16

17 Sarah shared her Ag Forestry trip to China through a Power Point presentation, it was very interesting.  
18 Sarah has one more seminar, and then she graduates from Ag Forestry.  
19

## 20 **Award Presentation**

21 Joe welcomed the guests and gave a background on the Council, and introductions were made around the  
22 table.  
23

24 Jeff explained the company, Bonaventure Senior Living, LLC, was recommended by Galen Wright, as the  
25 award recipient, with a long list of accomplishments.  
26

27 Galen explained over the last 15 years he has done over 950 tree protection plans; he has been met with a  
28 lot of resistance and complaining. Bonaventure went above and beyond, to work with Galen on a lot of  
29 projects; they were a breath of fresh air. They are a true corporate citizen. Representing them today are  
30 Sally Nash, and Ben Settecase. Ben passed pictures around a series of photos from one of the projects  
31 they worked on. They are developer owner/operators of 33 Senior Living Communities.  
32

33 Jeff presented Ben and Sally with a certificate of thanks from the Council. Sally was going to take it back  
34 to the Senior Center and show it to the seniors at the luncheon coming up. They extended an invitation to  
35 the Council to come out to the Grand Opening within the next couple of months. They are located on the  
36 Old Yelm Highway, a block south of the College. Sally asked Sarah for a list of e-mail addresses, so she  
37 can send out the invitations. Ben and Sally had their picture taken with the Council members.  
38

## 39 **Roundtable - All**

40 **Joe** – Last week the USFS Research Station out of the Portland office was holding an all day workshop,  
41 basically to help them shape the future of the next ten years. They put together a group of people who are  
42 stakeholders, but not familiar with the Research Station. He will circulate a summary of the meeting and  
43 events when it comes out. Barbara was there. The Research Station had not been focused on Urban &  
44 Community Forestry; but it is now high on their radar screen. They talked about tying in the USFS  
45 platform with the State’s, and sharing information. Right now you can get to the information, but you can  
46 not get to the raw data, because it is a proprietary software system.  
47

48 **Mark** – One of the things Mark tried to do and promised the Pacific Northwest Wildfire Coordinating  
49 Group (PNWWCG), was to get common GIS standards adopted in the Pacific Northwest Region. It was  
50 semi successful largely due to the fact of federal proprietary stuff. The way to work around that is ask one  
51 of the Research Stations to do a project; as they can get the information out of that system and provide it  
52 to us. Mark commented he is looking forward to being a full fledged member next meeting. He is  
53 currently Acting Executive Officer for the Chamber Creek Properties.  
54

**Linden** – Talked about representing the PNWISA at the Tacoma Lawn and Garden Show. She will also be attending the Flower and Garden Show in Seattle.

**Rich** – Rich talked about the workshops he and Jim Flott taught in November and December; and about the development of a protocol for creation of safe backyard wildlife trees.

**Jim Freed** – WSU is in a financial crisis, they receive their money from State and Federal governments. Right now they are doing three scenarios, a 17% cut, 20% cut, and a 75% cut to the extension outreach, because they don't generate FTE's. It's more teachable moments vs. working with communities. If Council members disagree with that, Jim can supply contact people to talk to. He is working on putting on a class for small landowners; it usually cost them \$500, but he is putting it on for \$60. They have done a survey and found out there are 60,000 forestland owners in the State of Washington. On hundred and twenty-two families own five acres or more. Sixty-three percent of the landowners are over 69 years of age. Seventy-two percent of those lands are in and around watersheds. Jim is available to help within your counties.

**Jeff** – Puget Sound Energy loves to make snags out of danger trees. They do have to have landowners sign off on it. It's good for our environment and a cheaper way to get rid of the trees. City of Enumclaw after ten years of growth moratorium due to our sewage waste water treatment plant finally opened up a new addition to that; and opened up all sorts of good connections.

**Ian** – Ian does Urban Forestry consulting. He talked about a project he is involved in with Portland.

**Sandy** – She attended the Climate Change Impact Assessment, which was very interesting and very sobering. Sixty-four scientists ran two climate change scenarios. One was a low emissions scenario, and the other was a moderate emissions scenario; then ramped out to 2020, 2040, and 2080. Jay Manning from Department of Ecology (DOE) talked about two futures, a really nice one, and then large population. They then broke us out into different areas. Sandy was in the Coastal one. They talked about wildfires consuming more than three or four times more area by 2080 than they do now. They are looking at higher intensity storms through fall and spring time, and less water in the summer. We will need to conserve water. It's going to be getting 11 degrees warmer in the summer months, so people will want to use more water. Our plants and forests will be different. They mentioned planting trees in the right place and planting them for carbon sequestration.

**Kelly** – Mayor Paul Denis of Camas apologized for missing the last meeting. Recently met with Elizabeth Walker and Charles Ray and had a discussion on the issues of urban forestry from a small community's standpoint. They discussed keeping your partners in place. He has been sitting in on the commercial zone rewrite for Clark County for the last year. He spent five weeks in South America, primarily in Buenos Aires. They have a city with street trees that are 60 – 100 years old. When rebuilding the infrastructure they would build around the trees. Yesterday sat in on an all day seminar on "Walkable Community." Kelly is on the Board for the Friends of Clark County, and Green Spaces Institutes. He talked about the "Connecting Green Program." They hired a new Parks and Recreation Director for the city and county, who is Pete Meyer from Mercer Island.

**David** – Glad to be here.

#### **Sub-Committee Breakout – All**

Jeff suggested not breaking out into Committee's today. So each Chair described their roles and responsibilities, and who is on their Committee. Mark and David will have to choose what Committee they want to serve on

#### **Strategic Plan – Chair**

The Committee looked over the Plan and made some minor edits. A motion was made to approve the February 18, 2009, Strategic Plan as edited, and to forward through Sarah to the USFS for their

1 concurrences. Jim approved, Kelly seconded it. Jeff suggested that once a year the Plan is pulled out and  
2 looked at. Suggest next meeting we spend some time with it. A motion was made that all Committees  
3 will report regularly on progress of Strategic Plan. A vote was taken, and motion passed.  
4

5 Jim suggested that it would have much more value if someone from the Council talk to the President of  
6 WSU, regarding the 75 percent cut in the extension service. Explain Council's role and how valuable it is  
7 to have the extension service. Or send a letter from the Council. A motion was made to authorize the  
8 Chair to send a letter to both the WSU and the U of W supporting those continued relationships with the  
9 Council. Sandy moved, Jeff seconded, and a vote was taken, motion passed.  
10

#### 11 **Visit from Commissioner Goldmark**

12 Joe welcomed Commissioner Goldmark; introductions were made around the table. The Commissioner  
13 thanked the Council for all their efforts to support Urban Forestry. He commented that he was a big  
14 advocate of forestry, especially in the urban environment. Commissioner quoted Dr. Franklin, from the  
15 U of W; "Forests Matter Everywhere".  
16

17 He mentioned realistically we are going through some very difficult budget times. Not sure of the  
18 dimension of that, or how it will impact the agency. We do know that it will have an impact across all  
19 programs.  
20

21 The Commissioner would like to be called when tree planting is taking place, he will come out and help  
22 and support that effort. He believes we need to plant trees just as often as we can and in every possible  
23 location. We also need to take care of them and maintain them.  
24

25 Joe reaffirmed to the Commissioner that the Council is an advisory to him and that they are available to  
26 him at any time. He may bring questions to them, and they will bring issues to him that may not be on his  
27 radar. Council meets quarterly. Again the Commissioner reiterated if we have a program with any major  
28 planning effort in any community, let him know in advance, and he will endeavor to be there and support  
29 it with his presence, and will engage the communication section to make as big a deal about it as they can.  
30

31 The Council has been engaged on working on the Strategic Plan, and the Commissioner was informed he  
32 would be receiving the final version of that document.  
33

34 Currently the agency is looking at other alternative revenue sources. The Commissioner has a Bio Mass  
35 Bill in the Legislature that is going to be moved out of Committee, that would start pilot projects on the  
36 eastside of the Cascades to convert waste Bio Mass into renewable energy sources, either electricity,  
37 and/or liquid fuels. We are also looking at increasing the percentage of contract harvesting.  
38

39 The Commissioner thanked the Council again for their support; looked forward to the Strategic Plan and  
40 the Council's further efforts.  
41

#### 42 **Agenda and Action Items for May 2009 Meeting**

- 43 • Possible Tour
- 44 • Jeff will work on lunches
- 45 • If you have something that comes up between meetings or want to give a presentation, send Sarah an  
46 e-mail and she will factor it into the meeting.  
47

48 Meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.  
49

50 The next meeting will be May 20, outside of Ellensburg, WA, at the Wild Horse Wind Farm.